



The Chatterbox

March - June 2018 Leisure Guide



**Strawtown Koteewi Park's
Adventures in Nature
Pgs. 11 and 17**

**Sign Up for Cool Creek
Summer Camps Now!
Pg. 18**

**Summer Concert Series -
Plus One
Pg. 22**

Hamilton County Commissioners

Christine Altman
Steven Dillinger
Mark Heirbrandt

Hamilton County Council

Paul Ayers	Amy Massillamany
Brad Beaver	Rick McKinney
Fred Glynn	Steve Schwartz
Jeff Hern	

Hamilton County Park Board

Stephen Andrews	Susan Peterson
Dr. Judith Campbell	Andrew (Terry) Prather
Jan DeJarnatt	Larry Roudebush
Mark McCauley	Philip Shelby

Mission Statement

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department exists to serve the leisure and recreation needs of its residents and tourists, and to enhance the quality of life in the county. We strive to preserve and provide high-quality, passive parks and facilities, to offer natural resource education and services, and to be recognized as a leader and resource for our community and its citizens in the pursuit of living an environmentally responsible lifestyle.

Park Board Meetings

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, except holidays. They are held at 6:30 p.m. in the Cool Creek Nature Center auditorium, located at 2000-1 East 151st Street, Carmel, IN 46033. The meetings are open to the public.

Park Hours

All parks operated by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation are open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Some sections of the park may be closed due to special events, shelter reservations or flooding. Please refer to *The Chatterbox* or call the administrative office.

www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

For info on other parks visit www.hampa.org and www.inpra.org

On the cover: The brilliant black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*) attract butterflies and its seed heads provide winter food for seed-eating songbirds. The golden-hued flowers adorn portions of the majestic, native, tall grass prairies that span 390 acres at Strawtown Koteewi Park. Learn more about this amazing park and a host of adventures it has to offer on pages 11 and 17.

Proud Member of:



Find us on
Facebook and Twitter!



Administrative Office • 317-770-4400

15513 S. Union St., Carmel, IN 46033

Mon. – Fri., 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please call the numbers listed for holiday hours of park offices and facilities.

Director, Allen Patterson
allen.patterson@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Deputy Director, B. Christopher Stice
chris.stice@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Resource Development Specialist, Don Nicholls
don.nicholls@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Office Manager, Alesa Cox
alesa.cox@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Admin Technical Coordinator, Carrie Melillo
carrie.melillo@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Community Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator, Steve Sneath
steve.sneath@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or
volunteer@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Event Coordinator, Christopher Gullion
christopher.gullion@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Cool Creek Nature Center • 317-774-2500

2000-1 E. 151st St., Carmel, IN 46033

Mon. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sun., 1 – 5 p.m.

Superintendent of Natural Resources and Education,
Amanda Smith
amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Naturalist, Dan Popiela
dan.popiela@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Taylor Center of Natural History • 317-774-2574

12308 Strawtown Ave., Noblesville, IN 46060

Mon. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sun., 1 – 5 p.m.

Regional Parks Operations Manager, Bruce Oldham
bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Historical Resource Specialist, Christy Brocken
christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

White River Campground • 317-770-4430

11299 E. 234th St., Cicero, IN 46034

Season: Apr. 15 – Oct. 31

Office hours:

Mon. – Thurs., 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fri. and Sat., 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Sun. 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Regional Parks Operations Manager, Bruce Oldham
bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Office Supervisor, Kris Cage
kris.cage@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Coxhall Gardens • 317-774-2582

11677 Towne Rd., Carmel, IN 46032

Dawn – Dusk

Coxhall Gardens Park Manager, Andy Kingsley
andy.kingsley@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Park Manager Assistant, Lori Hacker
lori.hacker@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Greetings and welcome to the March - June 2018 edition of *The Chatterbox Leisure Guide*.

Well here we are, already heading into spring of 2018... Time flies when you are having fun, and that is exactly what is happening here at your Hamilton County Parks. We are still basking a little in the glow of yet another long-awaited introduction to the amazing line-up of outdoor recreation amenities we provide – Koteewi Run Seasonal Slopes. On behalf of our team and the incredible team Brian Cooley has assembled at Outdoor Excursions, Inc., we would like to thank all of you who came out to join us (or just help spread the word on social media) in our inaugural snow tubing season, just one of the seasons to enjoy Koteewi Run Seasonal Slopes. We were not surprised, but still blown away by the response. As is the case with the first year of any such venture, this was still a learning process. We will be working with Brian to help plan and look forward to an even better 2018-19 season. One of the great lessons I hope many people learned is where Strawtown Koteewi Park is, and that it is not very far away from any of our Hamilton County communities, and easily accessible to everyone via state roads. There is something for everyone at Strawtown Koteewi Park, and new experiences to learn and enjoy. All our partners at the park are excited about 2018 and have been working hard to prepare. Whether your interest is archery, horseback riding, physical and natural exercise and adventure, enjoying the river, hiking, biking, nature observation or bird watching, Strawtown Koteewi Park is just down the road and ready to provide the opportunity for recreation and leisure needs. We are also very proud to announce that our historic bridges project that was completed and opened in November of 2016 has recently been recognized with three awards: American Council of Engineering Companies of Indiana – Engineering Excellence Merit Award (lost out to the Ohio River Bridge for top honor), Great Lakes Park Training Institute – Outstanding Facility Award, and the Indiana Park and Recreation Association – Excellence in Landscape Design Award. We thank all the awarding organizations for these honors. Wow! That is a lot going on and a lot to be excited about. I always say that our job “is” FUN. That is what we provide and what we have while doing it! We are having another great year doing all we can to enhance the quality of life in our county. In the following pages you will see the cumulative work of some of the finest park and recreation professionals this nation has to offer. I am constantly humbled, amazed, and proud to come to work every day with this group of people who have become part of a family. No one person is willing to let down the team or the people they work for. I would be missing the boat at this point if I didn’t recognize our elected officials on the County Council and County Board of Commissioners. These people often must take a leap of faith with us (like providing funding when we say we would like to build a snow tubing hill in Central Indiana), they always have our back and are always very supportive. Our Hamilton County Park Board also deserves a great deal of the credit in these celebrations. Without them and their leadership we wouldn’t be doing these wonderful things. Lastly, our park foundation, Friends of Hamilton County Parks, Inc., is making huge strides under the leadership of new Executive Director, Dr. John Scott Foster. (See John’s message on page 12.) We have several new energetic board members with a passion for parks and a mindset of advocacy. Thank them when you see them! What an amazing time for us all!!!



1995 - Director (then Superintendent), Al Patterson at his desk, site of the first Hamilton County Parks office in Central Pool Bathhouse.

Al Patterson,

Allen W. Patterson,,CPRP

Director, Hamilton County
Department of Parks and Recreation

How can I not SEE YOU IN THE PARKS?????

Solar Panels at the Cool Creek Nature Center Update

View the energy generated by our solar panels on the roof of the Cool Creek Nature Center. Visit www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com and click on the *Cool Creek Solar Panels* link!



Snapshot taken February 3, 2018. Data generated since September 2, 2010

Cool Creek Nature Center

Annually, more than 50,000 people visit the nature center! Our exhibits, designed and created by our staff, change seasonally. Additionally, a free daily craft is offered every two weeks, scavenger hunts are available every day, and the Wildlife Viewing Area and Greenhouse are also available. There is ALWAYS something new to explore at the Cool Creek Nature Center. While you are here, be sure to allow time for a nature hike and stop at our popular playground and Nature Play Area! We hope you will make plans to stop in sometime this season! For more information, please call us at 317-774-2500.

Hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Cost: Free

PLEASE NOTE: Nature center closed on: March 30, April 1, May 28



Coming this Season:

Native Plants for Sale

at the Cool Creek Nature Center Greenhouse

One of the most important things we as Hoosiers can do for our environment is to plant native species that support our ecosystem. To aid in this mission, a select number of native plants from trusted growers will be for sale through the growing season in the greenhouse at the Cool Creek Nature Center. Native plants are well adapted to our area because they've evolved here, and they support our entire ecosystem. The plants have not been treated with pesticides and are priced for the primary purpose of providing our customers with native plants for their home landscapes. Our staff is knowledgeable and can help with planting recommendations and with further education. Quantities and species will vary due to what our suppliers have available.

Please contact us at 317-774-2500 or email us at cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov for information regarding what species we are selling, or any other questions related to our sale.

Dates: Sale will run through October 31

Cost: Trees \$25 / Shrubs \$20 / Flowers & Grasses \$7

Location: Cool Creek Nature Center Greenhouse during nature center hours





Spring Exhibit: Spring on a Wing

Birds are all around us, yet few people realize the large diversity found in Indiana or know about the astonishing habits of these amazing feathered dynamos! Put a “spring” in your step as you “migrate” to the Cool Creek Nature Center to learn more about these creatures. Information about specific birds will be featured as well as general bird-related facts about conservation, nesting, and habitats.

Dates: March 19 - June 3

(Please note when the nature center is closed for holidays.)

Summer Exhibit: Summer Sense-ations

We will be celebrating many of nature’s most SENSE-ATIONAL things, including hummingbirds, butterflies, lightning bugs, flowers, frogs, and other delightful creatures! Come inside, cool off, and enjoy exploring and learning about the amazing things that fill the summer sky, scent the warm air, and add musical fancy to this magical season!

Exhibit Opening: June 18



Mission | Monarch

Hamilton County Parks is on a mission to help monarchs. Join Cool Creek Nature Center in learning about monarchs and actively helping them!

Did you know monarch butterflies make one of the longest migrations of any insect species, flying over 3000 miles from North America to very specific forests in the mountains of Mexico? Monarch butterfly populations steeply declined over the last decades because of loss of habitat for native plants, expanded use of pesticides and reductions in their overwintering grounds.

We can all help by planting milkweed – the only plant that monarch caterpillars eat! Protect them by restricting use of pesticides in your yard and garden. Our efforts will not only help monarchs but are beneficial to many native insects, birds and animals. You can pick up Common Milkweed seeds for free at the nature center!

Create a Habitat for Monarchs and Other Pollinators

Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed and adult butterflies require nectar sources to fuel their journey north and on the long migration south from Canada to Mexico. Creating pollinator habitat helps monarchs and all pollinators and provides a beautiful addition to your property. Learn how to implement a small or large habitat restoration project in your yard or neighborhood, or at a business or church. Bring your visionaries and planners and let’s continue to diversify our Hamilton County habitat. Certify your Butterfly Waystation through the Monarch Watch Program.

This program is also sponsored by the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District and Urban Conservation Association.

Date: Tuesday, March 27

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Not Required





Pajama-Rama

Put on your cutest pair of pajamas, grab your favorite teddy bear, pack up a blanket, and join us for Pajama-Rama! Families looking for a fun program to enjoy with their toddlers and preschoolers will love the music educator from Moriah Music, who will lead us in songs and stories about some of our favorite animals.

Dates: March 9, April 6, May 4, June 1

Time: 7:00 pm

Ages: Best for families with children ages 1-7

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



Spring Break Programs at Cool Creek Nature Center

Weekdays during Spring Break (April 2, 3, 5, and 6) at 11:00 am

Ages: Best for school-aged children

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Not Required

Celebrate Spring with Silly Safaris

Silly Safaris will take us on an entertaining trip. We will learn about some of the interesting spring animals in our area and around the world. Silly Safaris will share some of these amazing adaptations and silly characteristics!

Date: Monday, April 2

Time: 11:00 am

Indiana Wild: Animals in your Backyard

There is a lot more going on in our yards and neighborhoods than we realize. Many interesting critters share the same space. Come learn about our nature neighbors!

Date: Tuesday, April 3

Time: 11:00 am

HooSier Owls

Who-who is sharing our woods? Swoop in to find out as Mark Booth, Director of Take Flight Wildlife Education, brings several of his owls to share with the audience.

Date: Thursday, April 5

Time: 11:00 am

Rainforest Animals

Learn about the animals of the world's rainforest with Snakehead Ed. He will bring several exotic, tropical animals to show to the crowd.

Date: Friday, April 6

Time: 11:00 am

Maple Madness

Date: Saturday, March 3

Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

(Tours start approximately every half hour and take about one hour.)

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: BFHP

Pre-Registration: Required. Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



Cool nights, but warm days are arriving, which gets the sap a'flowing. The staff will be demonstrating making maple syrup, and continuing the Bray Family tradition on the property which began more than 150 years ago. Traditional and modern equipment will be used to make syrup as well as information regarding the folklore, history, and science about maple trees. During the tour, visitors will leisurely rotate through the Maple Grove, History Hut, Sugar Shack, and Sugar Shop...which takes about hour.

Guests will also be invited to enjoy a FREE wagon ride, musical entertainment and food for purchase.

Drangonwood Maple Syrup will be onsite with their locally produced maple syrup and other maple products and honey for purchase. Cash, check and credit are accepted for purchases.

HomeSchool Hikers

Plan a break from the books to learn about nature and get your kids outside. We will discuss a nature topic and then explore the woods and prairie. Kids that spend time in nature are happier, healthier and smarter!

Ages: Best for school-aged children

Cost: Free

Pre-registration: Preferred.

Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Tracking Animals in the Woods

Date: Tuesday, March 20

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: CCNC

Great Blue Herons are Nesting- Come Observe the Rookery

Date: Tuesday, April 17

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: RP

Become a Citizen Scientist

Date: Tuesday, May 15

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: CCNC



Park Programs

Nature Play Day!

Let's get Outside; Summer is Here!

Let's get outside; summer is here! Time to get out and play! Hamilton County Parks supports the Indiana Children and Nature Network's efforts to get kids outside by hosting Nature Play Days in several of our parks the week of June 10. Bring your kids to explore the parks, play on the playgrounds, and watch for wildlife. Bring a lunch and have a picnic if you like. Our staff will bring bubbles and other easy outdoor activities. Come and join the fun. Look for more Nature Play Days throughout the state at indianachildrenandnature.org.

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Pre-registration: Not Required



Cool Creek Park – come and visit our NEW Nature Play Area. This area features natural play elements in a shaded area. It is designed to encourage unstructured play in a natural setting.

Date: Monday, June 11

Time: 10:00 am

Location: CCP (meet at the Nature Play Area)

River Road Park – Play on the archaeology-inspired playground and see the early Native American interactive display. Wander through the prairie to the woods and river.

Date: Tuesday, June 12

Time: 10:00 am

Location: RRP (meet at the restrooms)

Geist Park – Visit the headwaters of Geist Reservoir on a peaceful hike along Fall Creek. We'll watch for birds and turtles and check out the wetlands.

Date: Thursday, June 14

Time: 10:00 am

Location: GP (meet at the shelter)

Potter's Bridge – Walk across the historic covered bridge. Check out the river on a walk through the woods.

Date: Friday, June 15

Time: 10:00 am

Location: PBP (meet at the playground picnic table)



Storytime at Cool Creek Park

Spring is here, and the plants and animals are springing to life in the park. Why not join us for a nature inspired story time? We will read a story, go on a short hike (weather permitting), and come back to the nature center to have a snack and do a kid's craft!

Dates: Wednesday, March 7

Wednesday, April 4

Time: 10:30 am

Ages: 3 - 5 year-olds

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Monarch Movie Night at the Nature Center

Join us for a special movie feature *Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home*, a 90-minute movie featuring entomologist Dr. Douglas Tallamy sharing inspiring stories of communities ensuring that humans and nature co-exist. We'll provide the popcorn.

Date: Thursday, April 19

Time: 7:00 pm

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Not Required

Raising Butterflies at Home

Marty Davis, a local photographer and naturalist, has raised thousands of monarch butterflies over the last thirty years. She will share the metamorphosis process through her close-up photography and share her methods for raising butterflies at home.

www.martydavisphoto.com

Date: Thursday, May 17

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration:

Not Required

Earth & Arbor Day Celebration

Join us at the nature center to celebrate Earth and Arbor Day! Hug a tree, learn about native plants and their importance for the entire food chain, and about ways you can make your home and yard more nature friendly. There will be fun activities and crafts. Go on a bug hunt, take a wildflower hike, and head home with some free milkweed plants for monarch caterpillars.

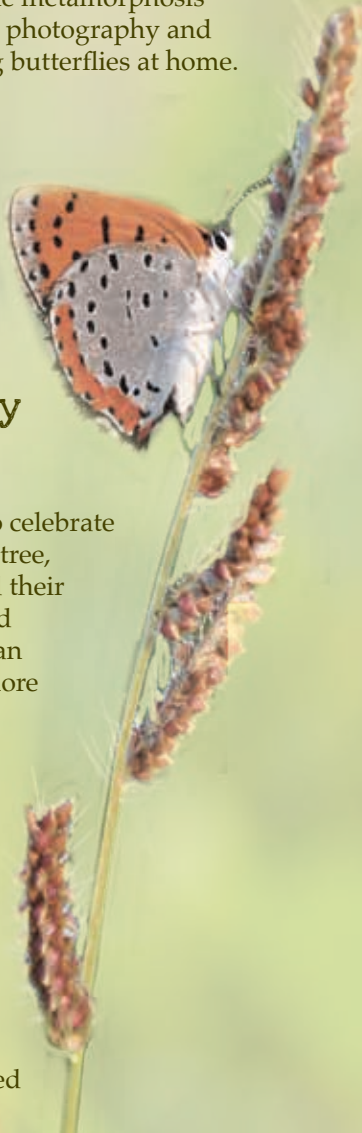
Date: Saturday, April 28

Time: 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Ages: All

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Not Required



Nature Kids

Preschool Gathering

Bring the little ones to explore nature! We start our program by learning about a specific nature topic and then head outside to explore the woods and prairie at preschooler speed. Parents join in to encourage discovery alongside their child. Dress for the weather – we will try to go out every meeting! Give your children the love of nature.

Time: 10:30 am

Ages: Best for preschoolers

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Preferred. Register by calling

317-774-2500 or emailing

cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Come Learn about Chumley and the Other Turtles at the Nature Center

Dates: Tuesday, March 13

Wednesday, March 14

Time: 10:30 am

Birds are Building Nests- Let's Learn About Eggs

Dates: Wednesday, April 18

Thursday, April 19

Time: 10:30 am



Nature Trunks on Loan at the Cool Creek Nature Center!

We have five nature trunks available for area educators to use as an additional resource for their classes! These kits make a great addition to any classroom or program that focuses on Indiana wildlife. Educators including scout leaders, teachers, and homeschool families are all eligible to borrow the trunks. The trunks were originally put together by educational professionals formally at the DNR Natural Resources Educational Center.

The nature trunks are available to borrow, free of charge, and are scheduled for use on a first-contact-first serve basis. Contact Holly Faust at 317-776-8412 / email holly.faust@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

The trunks available are:

The Wildlife Trunk consists of a variety of native skulls/bones, shells, skins, mounts, track molds and cards.

The Tree-mendous Tree Trunk includes many books, field guides, lesson plans, activity ideas, movies, wood samples and posters.

The Fur File includes fifteen real mammal furs with corresponding fact cards, additional lesson plans and resources for educators.

The Bird Trunk includes bird skulls, silhouettes, bird books, and other bird-related education materials.

The Go FishIN' Kit contains fishing rods, reels, fishing tackle, games and related literature to teach others how to go fishing.



Park Programs

Taylor Center of Natural History at Strawtown Koteewi Park

The Taylor Center of Natural History is open daily! Visitors are invited to discover the colorful local history that stretches thousands of years into the past. Artifacts recovered by professional archaeologists in previous excavations are on display in our exhibit room. Over eight miles of trails are open, so don't forget your hiking shoes and sense of adventure! Group tours or presentations can also be arranged by calling 317-774-2574.

Hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm • Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Cost: Free

PLEASE NOTE: *Taylor Center closed on: March 30; April 1; May 28*

Strawtown Enclosure - Native American Village Tours

Our interpretive staff conducts tours of the *Strawtown Enclosure*, a Native American village that was inhabited over 700 years ago. During these tours we will discuss the Native Americans who built and used the enclosure and see some of the artifacts recovered by archaeologists. The tours begin inside the Taylor Center of Natural History and include a short stroll to the village site. For more information, please contact us at 317-774-2574.

Dates: Saturdays at 11:00 am

Sundays at 2:00 pm

Note: Tours will not be offered on April 1.

Preschool Story Hour

We hope all our preschool friends will join us for our monthly preschool story hour. Story hour includes a craft, activity and of course a story!

Dates: Thursday, March 8: Spring
Thursday, April 12: Gardening
Thursday, May 10: Birds
Thursday, June 7: Flowers

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: Older preschoolers ages 3-5

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Required. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov.



Visit with a Fur Trader

Calling all time travelers! Join us as we welcome a visitor from 1750! Come prepared to use your imagination, have fun and maybe even learn something in the process. This “guest from the past” will be outside in the Longhouse with his trade items.

Date: Wednesday, April 4

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Ages: School-aged children

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Registration: Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

This Old Bottle Program

Ever wonder how archaeologists can date old glass bottles? Come join the staff for this introduction to some of the techniques used to determine the age of various types of glass bottles often found on historic archaeological sites. This program will also include a look at some examples of glass bottles from the historic artifact collections at the Taylor Center.

Date: Saturday, May 5

Time: 1:00 pm

Ages: Older children and adults

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov.



Summer Solstice Celebration

Join TCNH for an evening of sidewalk chalk art, a naturalist-led night hike, summer inspired games and crafts, and a lemonade bar! Hike begins at 8:00 pm at the Taylor Center. Sunset is at 9:16 pm.

Date: Thursday, June 21

Time: 7:00 - 9:30 pm

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Registration: Not Required

Strawtown Koteewi Park- Adventures in Nature!

Strawtown Koteewi Park is the largest and most scenic park in Hamilton County, Indiana! The park encompasses more than 800 acres, offers eight miles of multi-use trails and stretches along three miles of the White River. The grounds exhibit a biodiversity in their rich woodlands, historic wetlands and immense prairie, and are home to a broad spectrum of wildlife species. Equally diverse is the offering of exciting activities that include adventures in treetops, on horseback, downriver, downhill, at an archery range, (details on page 17 in this issue of *The Chatterbox*) and even in the field of archaeology.



Pronounced ko-TAY-wee, Koteewi means “fire” and possibly “prairie” in the Miami-Peoria language. The name pays homage to the Native Americans that called the land “home” over the centuries. Care has been taken to preserve and respect the historic significance of the land. Guests to the park can witness that care manifest in the Taylor Center of Natural History, located in the park.

More information about the Taylor Center and its programs, tours, activities and operations can be seen beginning on page 10.

Consider this your personal invitation to visit Strawtown Koteewi Park, and...let the adventures begin!

Help your friends. Help Yourself!

Friends of Hamilton County Parks

Many of us spent our childhood exploring the local creeks, woodlots, and fields within walking distance of our homes. It shaped us, made us who we are today. But for most kids, those opportunities don't exist. The wild places have been replaced by suburban development.

We write to ask you to support Friends of Hamilton County Parks as we work to ensure all members of our community have the same access to amazing spaces, whether they are children or adults.

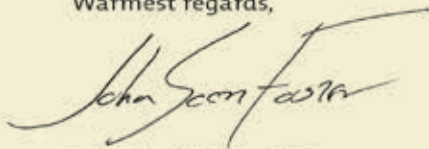
Hamilton County residents deserve the highest quality outdoor spaces for play and exploration; Hamilton County seniors deserve safe, well-maintained spaces for recreation and relaxation. And, Hamilton County families deserve beautiful places to come together to connect and grow.

A recent conversation with a community member struck a chord when she pointed out the straight-line connection between her passion for nature and parks and her childhood experiences.

I grew up out-of-doors, creek stomping along the White River with my cousins and searching for crawdads, frogs, freshwater mussel shells, and baby catfish. Our family vacations were spent visiting state and national parks across the country, panning for gold, rock hunting, and identifying leaves and trees with my dad.

Thankfully, we still have parks. We need them—now more than ever—for our own health, for our children's health, and for the health of our environment. And we need your help in making them the best parks possible. Your generous donation will be put to great use to positively impact your community and keep the parks green and growing for tomorrow. Please join us today.

Warmest regards,



John Scott Foster, PhD
Executive Director

Parks. A necessity, not a nicety.

Donate online at friendsofhamiltoncountyparks.org

BOARD MEMBERS

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Bruce Snyder
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Terry Prather
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Todd Irwin

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Allen Patterson

Jennifer Roberts

Muniver Singh

John Terry

Sharon Terry

Executive Director
John Scott Foster, PhD



THE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Friends of Hamilton County Parks would like to welcome our new Youth Advisory Council Members, Gavin Morrow, Shanna Shuler, and Jakob Martin, who join returning member Richa Louis. Interested in serving on our Youth Advisory Council? Contact us at johnscottfoster@friendshcp.org.

www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

TCNH Programs

Foraging Wild Salad Greens and Shoots

Spring is traditionally the season when nature provides abundant vegetable growth to renew and restore our bodies after the long, cold winter of preserved foods and meats. Foraging wild salad greens is easy and delicious in this season, and we'll gather and eat together. Field identification characteristics of edible and potentially hazardous plants will be included, along with ecological and practical recommendations for gathering. Plan to be outside for the duration of the event, and wear appropriate gear for the weather and soil conditions. This workshop is facilitated by community herbalist Greg Monzel of White Pine Wilderness Academy. Limited to 15 participants.

Date: Saturday, April 7
Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Ages: Older children and adults
Cost: Free
Location: TCNH
Pre-registration: Required. Register by calling 317-774-2576 or emailing christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov.



The park staff will occasionally take pictures of participants at our parks, programs, and special events. Photos may be used in future publications or online for communication purposes. If you do not want your picture taken, please inform the photographer.

Gathering and Preserving Herbs of the Prairie

Early summer is the perfect time of year to forage and process medicinal herbs for later use. The prairie is the natural habitat for many key medicinal plants, including bee balm, purple coneflower, and queen of the prairie. We'll meet many more plants and their uses while gathering. Together, we will work to prepare the herbs, and each participant will take home their own herb bundle to dry. Field identification characteristics of edible and potentially hazardous plants will be included, along with ecological and practical recommendations for gathering. Plan to be outside for the duration of the event, and wear appropriate gear for the weather and soil conditions. This workshop is facilitated by community herbalist Greg Monzel of White Pine Wilderness Academy. Limited to 15 participants.

Date: Saturday, June 30
Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Ages: Older children and adults
Cost: Free
Location: TCNH
Pre-registration: Required. Register by calling 317-774-2576 or emailing christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov.



Hikes

Beginning Bird Hikes

Birds are fascinating and watching them can be an awe-inspiring experience. Catching a glimpse of these gorgeous creatures however can be frustrating and learning how to identify all of them can be overwhelming! Join our naturalist staff and other guest leaders (when available) Sunday and Wednesday mornings and we will learn together. This will be a great opportunity for bird-watchers of all levels. You may begin anytime during the season and come as often as you like. Pre-registration is not required. Don't forget your binoculars!

Cool Creek Park

Dates: March 11, 14, 21, 25, 28;

April 8, 11, 18, 22, 25;

May 6, 9, 16, 20, 23, 30;

June 3, 13, 17, 20, 27

Time: 8:30 am

Cost: Free

Ages: Adults

Location: CCP - These hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park, past the nature center.

Pre-registration: Not Required

Strawtown Koteewi Park

Dates: March 7, April 4, May 2, June 3, 6

Time: 8:30 am

Cost: Free

Ages: Adults

Location: SKP - These hikes meet in the parking lot of the Taylor Center of Natural History

Pre-registration: Not Required

American Woodcock walk

Unusual, weird, romantic, and unique are all words used to describe the American Woodcock. Come experience this rite of spring for yourself as male woodcocks perform their aerial courtship displays for the females in the prairie at dusk! An indoor presentation will take place inside the Taylor Center for those interested in knowing more about the life history of this bird. Those interested in seeing the aerial display should meet the group inside the Taylor Center and will be led by a naturalist outside.

Date: Saturday, March 17

Times: Indoor program portion at 6:45 pm

Outdoor program portion begins at 7:30 pm

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Not Required

Children's Garden Tour at Coxhall Gardens

Take a tour of the Children's Garden at Coxhall Gardens and discover the inspiration behind this magical little spot. All sorts of ideas went into designing this children's area, and our naturalist will let you in on the story as we walk around and "play." This program will meet at the entrance of the Children's Garden.

Dates: Thursday, March 22

Thursday, April 12

Thursday, May 17

Thursday, June 21

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: Parents and their children

Cost: Free

Location: CHG

Pre-registration: Not Required

Spring Wildflower walk

Walk with a naturalist along the wooded trails to enjoy the beautiful blossoms in the park. Don't miss out as these enchanting spring ephemerals show off their beauty for a limited time. Discover their ecological significance and other attributes such as edibility or medicinal values that make our wildflowers wonderful. These walks begin inside the nature center.

Dates: Saturday, April 28

Saturday, May 12

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-Registration: Not Required

Saturday Morning Spring Migration Bird Hikes

Catch a peek at some beautiful birds as they make their return this spring. The hikes are led by well-known birder, Keith Starling. Hurry, some birds will not stay around long. After the hike, stop by the nature center's Wildlife Viewing Area for coffee and doughnuts. Don't forget your binoculars! Spring migration bird hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park.

Dates: April 21, April 28, May 5, 19, 26

Time: 8:00 am

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: CCP

Pre-registration: Not Required

Audubon May Bird Count

Volunteer to help HCPR and the Indiana Audubon Society as we count birds throughout our county. This annual count takes place on International Migratory Bird Day and the results are a valuable tool in tracking bird populations throughout the United States. Bird watchers of different skill levels will be paired together and assigned to various areas of the county. After the morning festivities, an optional lunch will be provided in the Cool Creek Nature Center.

Date: Saturday, May 12

Time: 8:00 am

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: County-Wide/CCNC

Pre-registration: Required. Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

National Trails and National Prairie Day Hike

It's National Trails Day and National Prairie Day, so where better to meet for a hike than Strawtown Koteewi Park, where we have nearly 400 acres of restored prairie and over 9 miles of trails? Our hike won't make it through the entire park, but we will explore and learn about the plants and whatever wildlife we encounter while hiking the north loop. The hike is about two miles.

Date: Saturday, June 2

Time: 11:00 am

Ages: All ages are welcome, but best for adults and older children

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Not Required



Rookery PreServe Programs

Join a naturalist at the Great Blue Heron Rookery in Hamilton County. We will meet and stay at the Stoops Observation Deck and discuss details about the park. We will spend the majority of the time watching and talking about the Great Blue Herons, who should be busily courting and tending their nests. You are encouraged to bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and photography equipment. Some equipment will be available.

Dates:

Wednesday, March 21 at 2:30 pm

Saturday, April 7 at 1:00 pm

Wednesday, April 11 at 3:30 pm

Saturday, April 21 at 3:00 pm

Thursday, April 26 at 4:00 pm

Saturday, May 5 at 2:30 pm

Wednesday, May 16 at 3:30 pm

Saturday, May 26 at 2:00 pm

Friday, June 1 at 3:30 pm

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: RP

Pre-registration: Preferred. Register by calling 317-774-2574 or emailing amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



Programs available upon Request at the Rookery PreServe

Church groups, homeschoolers, nature clubs, scouts, American Heritage Girls, or any group can request a special program at the Rookery Preserve led by a naturalist!

The best viewing times are March - May.

If you'd like to schedule your program, please email amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or call 317-774-2500.

Summer Nature Programs

Hey kids! Here is your chance to explore Cool Creek and have some summertime fun. These one and a half hour programs will feature a craft, nature activity or game, and a performance by the camp staff. Each activity is related to the topic of the day. (Registration begins May 31.)

Monday, July 2 / Beautiful Birds

We'll give a hoot as we flock around in feathery song and activity.

Tuesday, July 3 / Creek Stomp

Join our staff as we venture into the creek to discover cool critters in playful places.

Thursday, July 5 / Creek Stomp

Did you miss Tuesday's Creek Stomp? Would you like to Creek Stomp again? The creek has so much to offer and discover that we're doing it again today.

Friday, July 6 / Furry Friends

Animals love to hop, skip and jump like crazy as they search for food, build dens and play. Come and join us as we "go wild."

Times:

10:00 - 11:30 am

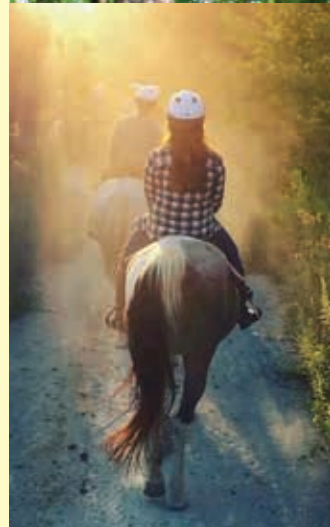
1:00 - 2:30 pm

Ages: 3 - 10

Cost: Free

Location: CCNC

Pre-registration: Required. Register by calling 317-774-2500 or emailing cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov beginning May 31.



Golf Cart Explorers at Strawtown Koteewi Park

Strawtown Koteewi Park is our largest park with more than 800 acres and over 9 miles of trails, which is great unless you aren't able to get out and explore them due to health and mobility constraints. Join our knowledgeable staff as they conduct a tour of the park in golf carts! We will explore the park's amazing features and views, habitats, and cultural spots. A limited number of spaces are available and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. The tour will start inside the Taylor Center.

Date: Saturday, May 19

Time: 1:00 pm

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH

Pre-registration: Required. Register by calling 317-774 -2501 or emailing amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



STRAWTOWN KOTEEWI PARK'S Adventure Area

Guests to Strawtown Koteewi Park's unique Adventure Area should prepare for recreational activities that will excite, entertain, educate and encourage visits back to the park, time and time again. Whether riding trails atop majestic horses, mastering treetop courses 60' in the air, or sending an arrow skillfully toward its target at a blistering speed, these Adventure Area attractions will not only generate tons of heart-pounding excitement, they'll provide special memories that will last a lifetime!

The Adventure Area can be found along Koteewi Drive, off Essig Road, located on the eastern boundary of the park.

Koteewi Aerial Adventure Treetop Trails

Operated by Edge Adventures, Inc.

Explore the woods in a whole new way! Five different treetop courses, from 16' to 60' high, offer a mix of elements and zip-lines, challenging ALL skill types. Enjoy adventures lasting from two to three hours. Spend your time differently throughout your visit and returning visits!

2-Hour Adventure: \$39 adult,
\$29 child (8-12 years old)
3-Hour Adventure: \$49 adult,
\$39 child (8-12 years old)
All Day Adventure: \$79 per person
(all ages)
Special Group Pricing: Discounts for
groups 10-19, 20+ or 50+
Hours vary by season. For current hours,
please visit edgeadventureparks.com,
or our Facebook page,
call 317-770-8845 or email
john@edgeadventureparks.com.



Operated by Edge Adventure Parks

317-770-8845
edgeadventureparks.com
Adventure Park Manager,
John Smiley



K-Trails Equestrian Adventures

Operated by K-Trails

Fun, family adventure is the primary focus of K-Trails! A variety of trail ride experiences have been designed with your family in mind. Guests will be provided a demonstration covering the fundamentals in trail riding, a riding helmet and assigned a horse best suited for them. The basic trail ride is a ninety-minute experience. Longer rides and private family experiences are available. Riders must be 7 years old or older. Parent/grandparent-assisted pony rides are available for children younger than 7. Pony rides are available for guests with special needs requiring additional assistance.

K-Trails Equestrian
Adventures
11949 Koteewi Dr.,
Noblesville, IN 46060
317-770-8835

Book your reservations
at www.ktrails.com.
Hours vary by season.
For current hours please
visit our website or
Facebook page.



K | Trails
EQUESTRIAN ADVENTURES

317-770-8835
ktrails.com
Operator, John Stewart
john@ktrails.com

Koteewi Range Sport & Target Archery Center

Operated by Tony Girt

Start your archery adventure with us! Koteewi Range provides five special purpose ranges for all ages and levels of archery experience...from beginner to pro! Bring your own equipment or we'll rent you ours. Koteewi Range offers camps, classes, lessons, parties, team-building activities and archery tournaments.

RANGE RATES
1 Hour on Target Range: \$10
\$2 each additional hour
Add \$5 for bow rental
3D Trail: \$12
Please call for annual membership,
group and party rates.

SEASONAL HOURS
Spring - Early Fall: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
7 days per week
Late Fall - Winter: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursdays - Sundays



Operated by Tony Girt

317-776-8472
koteewiarchery.com
Range Manager, Tony Girt
tonygirt@koteewiarchery.com

Day Camps

Explorer Safari -

Children ages 6 to 7

Session 1 / June 11 - 15

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Cost: \$60.00

Session 2 / June 11 - 15

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Cost: \$60.00

Ranger Adventure -

Children ages 8 to 10

Session 1 / June 18 - 22

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cost: \$70.00

Session 2 / July 9 - 13

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cost: \$70.00

Session 3 / July 23 - 27

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cost: \$70.00

Junior Outdoor Skills -

Children ages 11 to 13

Session 1 / June 25 - 29

10:00 am - 3:00 pm (Monday-Wednesday)

Thursday 10:00 am - all night

Friday pickup at 10:00 am

Cost \$80.00

Session 2 / July 16 - 20

10:00 am - 3:00 pm (Monday-Wednesday)

Thursday 10:00 am - all night

Friday pickup at 10:00 am

Cost \$80.00

Session 3 / July 30 - August 3

10:00 am - 3:00 pm (Monday-Wednesday)

Thursday 10:00 am - all night

Friday pickup at 10:00 am

Cost \$80.00



Cool Creek CAMP



Camp Registration Day

Date: Saturday, March 10

Time: Registration begins at 10:00 am

Location: Online

All information provided here can also be found at myhamiltoncountyparks.com under 'Recreation Activities.'

If you have any questions about our registration process, please feel free to contact our Camp Coordinator, Dan Popiela, at dan.popiela@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or by calling 317-774-2500.

GENERAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Campers are only permitted to attend one camp session for their designated age group.
- Children must be of the appropriate age of the desired camp by September 1.
- A limited number of spaces are available and registration for each camp is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Parents must register online. Please call the Cool Creek Nature Center if alternate arrangements need to be made.
- All online forms must be completed before day of registration.
- Registration cannot take place until 10:00 am on registration day.
- All online forms must be completed by the parent/legal guardian of the child.
- Staff may not be available to troubleshoot for parents on the morning of registration. Please be sure you can access your account prior to registration day!

Camper Profile Accounts

- At any time, parents can access the Hamilton County Parks website and go to 'Recreation Activities' to set up or update their account details.
- Setting up a new account prior to registration day will expedite your registration process for your family; however, it is not necessary to have an account setup prior to registration day.
- If you already have an account, please log in and review your information prior to registration day.
- Be sure that each child in your family you wish to be in camp is on your account.
- A new account will involve setting up an account, including creating a user name and password and filling out parent and camper information.
- If you have any trouble accessing your online account, please contact the Cool Creek Nature Center at 317-774-2500 **PRIOR** to registration day.
- Staff may not be available to troubleshoot for parents on the morning of registration. Please be sure you can access your account prior to registration day.



Looking for a fun and energetic camp for your children to attend this summer? Cool Creek Nature Center is the place for summer fun. Registration begins March 10th at 10 am. Children must be of the appropriate age of the desired camp by September 1st.

Additional Information

- Parents will need to fill out or update required forms including the camper profile, medical form, and other important forms. These forms must be filled out prior to making a payment.
- A camper's spot will be held temporarily, but a child is not completely registered unless all required forms are completed online and payment is received.
- An automatic confirmation email acknowledging your child's spot in camp will be emailed to you after midnight.
- Your child's spot in camp is **not guaranteed** until payment is received.
- All information must be completed by the parent or legal guardian.



How to Register Online

- Set up an account before registration day and be sure that each child in your family you wish to attend camp is on your account. Note: Users will be unable to select a camp until the actual registration time on March 10 at 10 am.
- On Saturday, March 10, at or any time after 10 am, log on to your account.
- Select the camper you wish to register.
- Click on 'Add New Session' and select the desired camp for that camper and click 'Next'.
- A space is now reserved in camp.
- After clicking 'Next,' parents will need to review all parent and emergency contact info. Any missing required info will be highlighted and will need to be filled in before continuing to the next screen; otherwise continue clicking 'Next.'
- The final screen will allow parents to select another camper or finish registration.
- If registering another camper, select the camper's name, then click 'New Registration.'
- If you are not registering any more campers, click 'View Dashboard.'
- This will take you to the main page where you can review and update any required fields or go to the payment page.
- If a camp is full, you'll be asked if you want to be placed on a wait list. You can register for a different week of camp and still be on the wait list for preferred camp.

Payment

- **All required fields must be complete before payments can be processed.**
- Camp fees can be paid online, sent through the mail or delivered in person at the Cool Creek Nature Center during office hours.
- Forms of payment include cash, check, or credit card (American Express not accepted online).
- Checks should be made payable to the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department (HCPR).
- Checks must include the driver's license number or Social Security number of the check holder.
- A confirmation email will be sent to the purchaser within the day.
- Checks can be mailed to:
Cool Creek Nature Center
2000-1 E 151st Street
Carmel, IN 46033
- When paying by mail, please include the full name of the camper and for what camp he/she is registered on the check or separate piece of paper.
- When paying for camp online, a receipt will be emailed to the purchaser after the payment is processed.
- **Registrations paid by check or cash may not be processed right way.**

Cancellations:

Unfortunately, NO REFUNDS will be issued after a child is registered. If a child is unable to attend camp for any reason, a credit may be made available towards the next year's camp 2019. A cancellation form must be completed and approved by the Camp Coordinator in order to receive any credits. This credit may only be applied to a child within the same family at the same address. If the credit is not applied to camp in 2019 then the credit is forfeited. Camp availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. A credit towards next year's camp is not a guarantee that a spot will be available for that child. Any available opening will be made to the next available person on the waiting list, as determined by the HCPR staff. Cancellation forms are available at Cool Creek Nature Center. Any concerns regarding the cancellation policy may be addressed to the HCPR's Department Director, Al Patterson, at the Hamilton County Administration Office by phone at 317-770-4400.

Volunteer Spotlight



The girls from Maple Glen Daisy Troop 1621 wanted to make a difference in their community, so they decided to adopt a flowerbed near the Cool Creek Park Greenhouse that was in need of some tender loving care. The girls planted native flowers and maintained the bed by mulching, watering, and weeding throughout the growing season. In addition, the girls had fun embellishing their bed with pavers and signs they painted for decoration.

We want to thank Maple Glen Daisy Troop 1621, their parents and troop leaders Shannon Bitler and Desiree Martin for all of their contributions! The bed looks fabulous and we are pleased they have agreed to continue their efforts again this season. We have many more flowerbeds available for adoption, so if you would like to help beautify our community, please contact us at volunteer@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or 317-774-2509 to learn more. Your help is greatly appreciated!



Community Volunteer Opportunities

March 24, 2018 / Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

The community is invited to join Boy Scout troops from Hamilton County, as they work to restore the ecological health of Strawtown Koteewi Park by removing invasive herbs and shrubs. This prevents them from crowding out native trees, shrubs and flowers in the park.

May 5, 2018 / Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

The community is invited to join REI for a Community Day of Service as they make park improvements at River Road Park.

June 2, 2018 / Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

The community is invited to join the Indiana Trail Riders on National Trails Day as they work to clean up the trails at Strawtown Koteewi Park.



Be a Parks Volunteer!

Volunteering for Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department can be a fun and rewarding experience! Volunteer opportunities include general park upkeep, assisting with special events, helping with gardening, caring for the nature center's wildlife friends, greenhouse tending, landscaping, cleaning, socializing, educating and more. We welcome individuals and groups of all sizes and will work to find activities that are a good fit with your interests, skills and schedule.

Look for the volunteer symbol throughout this issue of *The Chatterbox* to find programs and events that offer volunteer activities, or contact us if you want to learn about other opportunities! To volunteer, please call 317-774-2509 or visit us at myhamiltoncountyparks.com.



Cool Creek Campfires

Join us around the Cool Creek campfire ring for songs, presentations, and marshmallows. Cindy Baney, music educator with Moriah Music, will start the evening off with music. Special speakers will then entertain guests each week with topics about snakes, birds, turtles, and more. Hang out with your family and friends during these special Wednesday evenings. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs or blankets.

Dates: June 6, 13, 20, 27; July 11, 18, 25; August 1

Time: 7:00 pm

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: CCP (north side of the park)

Pre-registration: Not Required



Indiana Jim: Reptile Experience / June 6

Indiana Jim's wide assortment of reptiles and amphibians are sure to surprise, teach, fascinate, and intrigue you!

Amazing World of Animals / June 13

Animals from all over the world will be at our campfire ring. Larry Battson, wildlife educator and handler, will talk to us about animal lives, conservation, and more.

All-American Animals / June 20

Celebrate our country's birthday with Coyote Chris of Silly Safaris. Animals that get us excited about our independence will be featured!

Snakes with Ed - THE BIG ONES / June 27

Ed will bring lots of snakes to show the audience. He will dispel many of the myths people have about these fascinating creatures.

Birds of Prey / July 11

Take Flight Wildlife Education's Mark Booth will bring several birds of prey to share with the audience. Hawks, owls, and kestrels are just a few of the amazing birds that prey on small animals and examples of what Booth will have for the audience!

Nocturnal Animals / July 18

Indiana WILD will join us for a program all about animals of the night! These highly adaptive nocturnal creatures are as interesting as they are unusual!

REALLY Dangerous Animals / July 25

Amazon John with Silly Safaris is back with some REALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS! Be sure to make it to this exhilarating show.

Baby! It's wild Outside / August 1

Utopia Wildlife Rehabilitators will talk with us about the do's and don't's of wildlife that we might encounter in our communities. Some of their own rehabilitated animals will be on hand to help us understand when our help is needed and when it is actually harmful for wildlife and us!





presents



Select Fridays at 7pm
Gates open at 6pm

Adults - \$5

12 & Under - Free

Discount season passes!

Call 317-770-4400 for details.

Cool Creek Park 2000 East 151st Street, Carmel/Westfield



Friday, June 15

Cook and Belle

cookandbelle.com

Friday, June 22

My Yellow Rickshaw

myyellowrickshaw.com

Friday, June 29

Blue River Band

brbrocks.com

Friday, July 13

Polkaboy

polkaboy.com

Friday, July 20

ESB

esbband.com

Friday, August 3

***The Flying Toasters**

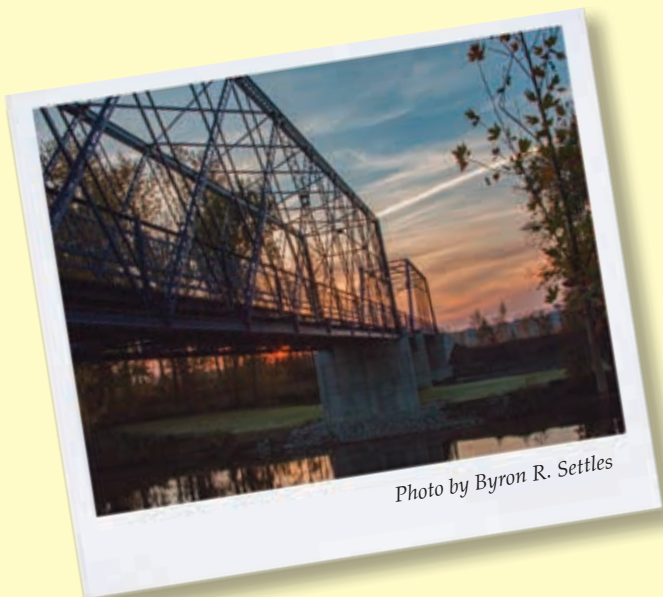
theflyingtoasters.com



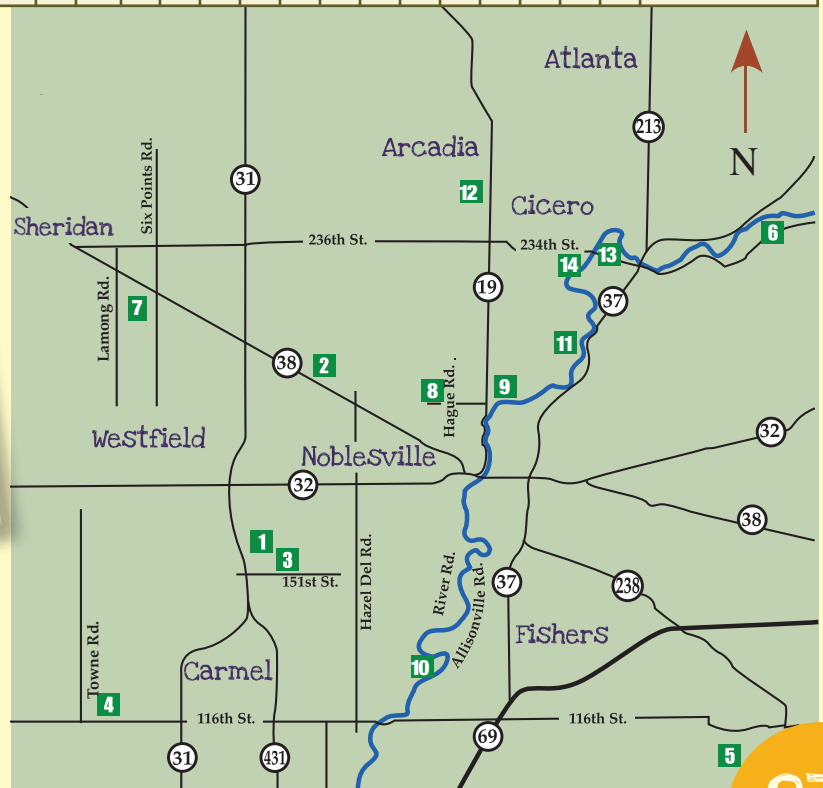
***NEW THIS YEAR!
ONE ADDITIONAL
CONCERT
TO ENJOY!**



	showers	beach	boat dock	fishing	canoe launch	music pavilion	picnic tables	picnic shelters	restrooms	playground	archery	disc golf	soccer field	baseball / softball	basketball court	volleyball	bicycling	greenspace	nature trail	paved trail	equestrian trail	camping	wetland / prairie	
1. Administration Office 15513 S. Union Street, Carmel																								(317) 770-4400
2. Bray Family Homestead Park (BFHP) 4528 Sheridan Ave, Noblesville																		●	●					(317) 770-4400
3. Cool Creek Park (CCP)/(CCNC) 2000 E. 151 st Street, Carmel					●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	●	●				●		(317) 774-2500
4. Coxhall Gardens (CHG) 116th Street & Towne Road, Carmel				●		●		●	●							●	●	●				●		(317) 774-2582
5. Geist Park (GP) 10979 Florida Road, Fortville				●	●		●	●	●	●							●	●				●		(317) 770-4400
6. Lafayette Trace Park (LTP) 15796 E. Strawtown Ave, Noblesville				●	●												●							(317) 770-4400
7. Monon Trail From W. 216 th St. to Lamong Rd., Sheridan																●			●					(317) 770-4400
8. Morse Park & Beach (MPB) 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●		●		●	●	●	●						(317) 770-4400
9. Potter's Bridge Park (PBP) 19401 N. Allisonville Road, Noblesville				●	●		●	●	●	●						●	●	●	●					(317) 770-4400
10. River Road Park (RRP) 12575 River Road, Carmel				●	●			●	●							●	●	●	●			●		(317) 770-4400
11. Riverwood Canoe Landing (RCL) 20814 Riverwood Ave, Noblesville				●	●																			(317) 770-4400
12. Rookery Preserve (RP) 25440 Scherer Ave, Arcadia																	●							(317) 770-4400
13. Strawtown Koteewi Park (SKP)/(TCNH) 12308 Strawtown Ave, Noblesville				●	●					●						●	●	●		●		●		(317) 774-2574
14. White River Campground (WRCG) 11299 E. 234 th Street, Cicero	●			●	●		●	●	●	●					●	●	●				●			(317) 770-4430



The historic bridges spanning White River, connect White River Campground guests to Strawtown Koteewi Park and its countless natural, educational and recreational adventures.



White River Campground

Operating Dates: April 15 - October 31, 2018

Location: 11299 East 234th Street, Cicero, IN 46034

Amenities:

- 100 modern campsites
- 7 primitive campsites
- water, electric & sewer hook-ups
- camp store, includes bait and tackle
- recreation room
- restrooms/shower facility
- laundry facility
- playground
- picnic shelter
- White River access
- WiFi
- historic bridges connecting guests to Strawtown Koteewi Park and the Adventure Area.

Reservations are accepted 365 days in advance. Please call 317-770-4430 to make your reservation...today! SORRY – NO REFUNDS.

CAMPSITE/FACILITY	DAILY		WEEKLY	
	Hamilton County	Out of County	Hamilton County	Out of County
Full Hook-up	\$25	\$30	\$130	\$150
Electric and Water	\$20	\$25	\$120	\$130
Primitive Site	\$15	\$20	\$100	\$120
Day Visitor	FREE	FREE	/	/
Recreation Room Rental	\$60	\$80	/	/
Shelter House Rental	\$60	\$80	/	/
Boat Launch	\$3	\$5	/	/
Dump Station	\$5	\$8	/	/

Morse Park Summer Triathlon and Duathlon

The annual Morse Park Summer Triathlon will take place on Saturday, June 30, 2018. The popular event consists of a 600-yard swim, 15-mile bike and a 3-mile run. Also offered is a Duathlon for those not wishing to swim, that consists of a 2-mile run, 15-mile bike and 3-mile run. Relay team format is also available.

Date: Saturday, June 30

Time: 8:00 am (start time)

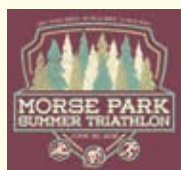
Cost: Ranges from \$50 to \$75

Location: MPB

19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville IN 46060

Registration and Information:

www.tuxbro.com or 317-733-3300



Family Fun Times!

WHITE RIVER CAMPGROUND 2018

Throughout the 2018 season, White River Campground will offer quality entertainment and activities that are designed to add to the enjoyment of the camping experience for the entire family!

For specific details regarding the following campground events and programming, please call 317-770-4430.

Friday **April 13** // Opening Day at WRC

Saturday **April 28** // Tree Giveaway (Arbor Day Weekend)

Saturday **May 26** // Memorial Weekend Band

Saturday **June 23** // Kid's Fishing Tournament

Saturday **June 30** // July 4th Musical Performance

Saturday **July 21** // Family Fun Times Magic Show

Saturday **Aug 4** // Family Fun Activities - TBD

Saturday **Sept 1** // Labor Day Weekend Band

Saturday **Sept 15** // Family Fun Activities - TBD

Saturday **Oct 6** // Halloween Weekend at WRC

Saturday **Oct 13** // Pitch-In Dinner at WRC

...and MORE!

Love to Fish?

The stretch of White River that defines the eastern border of the campground and the western border of Strawtown Koteewi Park, is known for its ample supply of Smallmouth Bass.

The great fishing adds to the enjoyment of campers and participants in the campground's annual fishing tournament!



Park Rentals



Osprey Pointe Pavilion

Planning a shower, wedding reception, or any other special event? Our indoor rental facility at Morse Park and Beach offers a lodge-like setting and is available for private functions. Osprey Pointe is located on the banks of Morse Reservoir with a scenic view. The facility's seating capacity is 101 people and features a kitchenette and restrooms.

Facility Rental Rate:	\$160.50 for 4 hours
Non-resident Rate:	\$240.75 for 4 hours
Additional Hours:	\$42.80 per hour
Damage Deposit:	\$100
Alcohol Deposit:	\$400

Rental rates include an on-site security guard and use of all tables and chairs.

Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion

Looking for a beautiful and serene location to hold your upcoming wedding and reception? The Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion are now ready to rent for weddings, wedding receptions, and any other special event you may have on your calendar. Rental is available from April through October.

For more information and to rent this facility, please call **Ritz Charles** at 317-846-9158 or visit ritzcharles.com.

Cool Creek Nature Center Auditorium

For a uniquely natural event venue, consider the Cool Creek Nature Center Auditorium. The auditorium's capacity is 140. Alcohol is prohibited and a contract is required. Call 317-774-2500 for rates, availability and complete details.

Cool Creek Park	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelters A,B,C,D	20' x 30'	\$53.50	\$85.60

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters hold approximately 50 people.

Geist Park	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelter	20' x 30'	\$53.50	\$85.60

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters hold approximately 50 people.

Morse Park and Beach	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelters A,C,D	20' x 30'	\$53.50	\$85.60
Shelter B	30' x 40'	\$107.00	\$149.80

- Grill located at each shelter
- Shelters A,C,D hold approx. 50 people.
- Shelter B holds approx. 100 people.

Park Shelters

Looking for a place to have a picnic and enjoy your summer? Our affordable picnic shelters are a perfect place to have a get-together! Shelter rental is available from May 1st until September 30th.

- Shelter rentals are for all-day use.
- No refunds
- Cash, check, money order, and all major credit cards

Please call 317-770-4400 for rental information.



Calendar 2018

March

- F2** Homeschool Maple Syrup – 1pm, 2pm, 3pm – BFHP
- Sa3** a. Maple Madness – 10am – BFHP
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su4** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W7** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP
b. Storytime at Cool Creek Park – 10:30 am – CCNC
- Th8** Preschool Story Hour – 11am – TCNH
- F9** Pajama-Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa10** a. Camp Registration Day – 10am – online
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su11** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- T13** Preschool Gathering: Learn about Chumley and CCNC's Other Turtles 10:30am – CCN
- W14** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Preschool Gathering: Learn about Chumley and CCNC's other Turtles – 10:30am – CCNC
- Th15** Coxhall Mansion and Museum Tour – 10am – CHG
- Sa17** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
b. American Woodcock Walk – 6:45pm – TCNH
- Su18** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M19** Spring on a Wing Exhibit Opens – CCNC
- T20** Homeschool Hikers: Tracking Animals in the Woods – 1pm – CCNC
- W21** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Rookery Preserve Program – 2:30pm – RP
- Th22** Coxhall Children's Garden Tour – 11am CHG
- Sa24** Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su25** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- T27** Create a Habitat for Monarchs and Other Pollinators – 6:30pm – CCNC
- W28** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- F30** Good Friday – Facilities Closed
- Sa31** Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH

April

- Su1** Easter – Facilities Closed
- M2** Spring Break Program: Silly Safaris – 11am CCNC
- Tu3** Spring Break Program: Animals in Your Backyard – 11am – CCNC
- W4** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP
b. Storytime at Cool Creek Park – 10:30am – CCNC
c. Visit with a Fur Trader – 1pm – TCNH
- Th5** Spring Break Program: Hoosier Owls – 11am – CCNC
- F6** a. Spring Break Program: Snakehead Ed – 11am – CCNC
b. Pajama-Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa7** a. Foraging Wild Salad Greens and Shoots 10am – TCNH
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
c. Rookery Preserve Program – 1pm – RP
- Su8** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W11** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Rookery Preserve Program – 3:30 – RP
- Th12** a. Preschool Story Hour – 11am – TCNH
b. Coxhall Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
- F13** Opening Day – WRC
- Sa14** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su15** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- T17** a. Homeschool Hikers: Great Blue Herons are Nesting – 1pm – RP
b. Coxhall Mansion and Museum Tour – 5pm CHG
- W18** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Preschool Gathering: Let's Learn About Bird Eggs! – 10:30am – CCNC
- Th19** a. Preschool Gathering: Let's Learn About Bird Eggs! – 10:30am – CCNC
b. Movie Night: Hometown Habitat – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa21** a. Spring Migration Bird Hike – 8am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
c. Rookery Preserve Program – 3pm – RP
- Su22** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W25** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th26** Rookery Preserve Program – 4pm – RP

ADA Notice: Hamilton County, will upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so that they can participate equally in Hamilton County's public meetings. For special accommodations for a meeting contact the ADA Facilities Coordinator/Safety & Risk Manager at (317-770-1976) or dan.papineau@hamiltoncounty.in.gov at least two (2) business days prior to the scheduled meeting or event to request an accommodation. Hamilton County Parks and Recreation is committed to accommodating all individuals with special needs. If assistance is required at any county park event, program or facility, please contact the Administrative Office in advance at 317-770-4400.

- Sa **28** a. Spring Migration Bird Hike – 8am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
c. Spring Wildflower Walk – 11am – CCNC
d. Earth and Arbor Day Celebration – 1pm – CCNC
e. Tree Giveaway (Arbor Day Weekend) – WRC

- Su **29** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH

May

- W **2** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP
- F **4** Pajama-Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa **5** a. Spring Migration Bird Hike – 8am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
c. This Old Bottle – 1pm – TCNH
d. Rookery Preserve Program – 2:30pm – RP
- Su **6** a. Beginning Bird Hike- 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W **9** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th **10** Preschool Story Hour – 11am - TCNH
- Sa **12** a. Audubon May Bird Count – 8am – County-Wide/CCNC
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
c. Spring Wildflower Walk – 11am – CCNC
- Su **13** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- T **15** Homeschool Hikers: Become a Citizen Scientist – 1pm – CCNC
- W **16** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Coxhall Mansion and Museum Tour – 10am – CHG
c. Rookery Preserve Program – 3:30pm – RP
- Th **17** a. Raising Butterflies at Home – 7pm – CCNC
b. Coxhall Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
- Sa **19** a. Spring Migration Bird Hike – 8am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
c. Golf Cart Explorers – 1pm – TCNH
- Su **20** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W **23** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Sa **26** a. Spring Migration Bird Hike – 8am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
c. Rookery Preserve Program – 2pm – RP
d. Memorial Weekend Band – WRC

- Su **27** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH

- M **28** Facilities Closed

- W **30** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP

June

- F **1** a. Rookery Tour – 3:30pm – RP
b. Pajama-Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa **2** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
b. National Trails Day Hike – 11am – CCP
- Su **3** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W **6** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP
b. Campfire: Indiana Jim: Reptile Experience 7pm – CCP
- Th **7** Preschool Story Hour – 11am – TCNH
- Sa **9** Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su **10** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M **11** a. Explorer Safari Camp Session 1 begins – 9:30am – CCNC
b. Nature Play Day at Cool Creek Park – 10am – CCP
c. Explorer Safari Camp Session 2 begins – 1pm – CCNC
- T **12** Nature Play Day at River Road Park – 10am – RRP
- W **13** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Campfire: Amazing World of Animals – 7pm – CCP
- Th **14** a. Nature Play Day at Geist Park – 10am – GP
b. Coxhall Mansion and Museum Tour – 5pm – CHG
- F **15** a. Nature Play Day at Potter's Bridge Park – 10am – PBP
b. Cool Creek Concert Series featuring Cook and Belle – 7pm – CCP
- Sa **16** Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su **17** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- M **18** a. Ranger Adventure Camp Session 1 begins 10am – CCNC
b. Summer Sense-ations Exhibit Opens – CCNC
- W **20** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Campfire: All-American Animals – 7pm – CCP

- Th **21** a. Coxhall Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
b. Summer Solstice Celebration – 7pm – TCNH

- F **22** Cool Creek Concert Series featuring My Yellow Rickshaw – 7pm – CCP

- Sa **23** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
b. Kid's Fishing Tournament – WRC

- Su **24** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH

- M **25** Junior Outdoor Skills Camp Session 1 begins – 10am – CCNC

- W **27** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
b. Campfire: Snakes with Ed – The Big Ones! – 7pm – CCP

- F **29** Cool Creek Concert Series featuring Blue River Band – 7pm – CCP

- Sa **30** a. Morse Park Triathlon – 8am – MPB
b. Gathering Herbs – 10am – TCNH
c. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
d. July 4th Musical Performance – WRC

KEY

Su – Sunday	Bray Family Homestead Park (BFHP)
M – Monday	Cool Creek Nature Center (CCNC)
Tu – Tuesday	Cool Creek Park (CCP)
W – Wednesday	Coxhall Gardens (CHG)
Th – Thursday	Geist Park (GP)
F – Friday	Lafayette Trace Park (LTP)
Sa – Saturday	Morse Park & Beach (MPB)
	Potter's Bridge Park (PBP)
	River Road Park (RRP)
	Riverwood Canoe Landing (RCL)
	Rookery Preserve (RP)
	Strawtown Koteewi Park (SKP)
	Taylor Center of Natural History (TCNH)
	White River Campground (WRCG)



Hamilton County Parks and Recreation
15513 South Union Street
Carmel, Indiana 46033



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If you would like to be added or removed from the list, please call 317-770-4400 or email hamilton.parks@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or visit www.enfront.com/HamiltonCountyParks.

If the name shown on the address is incorrect or NOT the intended recipient, please contact us at 317-770-4400 and let us know. We'll update our list and send you YOUR free Chatterbox.



Coxhall Mansion and MuSeum Tours

Hamilton County Parks offers tours of the Coxhall Mansion and Museum, located on the stately grounds of Coxhall Gardens. The tours cover the history of the mansion, the grounds and the Cox family, as well as others that have played a role in the creation of one of Hamilton County's most prestigious residences. Tours are free, but registration is required. Please call 317-770-4400 for details or if special accommodations are needed.

Dates:

Thursday, March 15th – 10am

Tuesday, April 17th – 5pm

Wednesday, May 16th – 10am

Thursday, June 14th – 5pm

Cost: Free

Location: CHG

Pre-registration: Required.

Call 317-770-4400.



Free Assistance from the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District

Clean water, pollinator habitat, healthy yards and more sustainability starts at home, church, school, homeowners association, and other common areas! Free assistance is available to Hamilton County landowners to make your property more sustainable and beautiful at the same time. Financial assistance may be available to make your project a reality. Contact Claire Lane at the Hamilton County SWCD to learn more about the Backyard Conservation Program and projects like rain gardens, tree plantings, drainage solutions, pollinator gardens and more. Email Claire.lane@hamiltoncounty.in.gov, call 317-773-2181 or visit our website www.hamiltonswcd.org to learn more.

